

Idaho Café

CONCLUSION

Overwhelmingly, we heard Idaho Café participants tell us they care deeply for Idaho's wildlife, and that they are willing and anxious to do what they can to ensure a vibrant future for wildlife in Idaho.

Education was a theme in almost every conversation and question. We heard that participants see wildlife education as important, especially for youth. And they want to see more youth connecting to the outdoors, not only through traditional hunting and fishing experiences, but also in terms of wildlife watching and appreciation and outdoor recreational opportunities. They said that contributing to the restoration, improvement and protection of habitats is important to the future of Idaho's wildlife and recreational uses of that wildlife. They want to see Fish and Game do more to make all this happen, and they said they are willing to help.

Fish and wildlife are important to participants, and they recognized that programs geared toward ensuring conservation and management cost money. Many understand that the traditional users, hunters and anglers, have shouldered the financial responsibility for more than 70 years and that the responsibility of a wildlife legacy can no longer fall completely on hunters and anglers. They said that all wildlife and its associated recreation are worth the cost. Participants told us that they are willing to pay more. And those who don't already pay told us they were willing to pay their fair share.

We heard that it is important to expand the diversity of perspectives with emphasis on support for finding common ground and collaboration among all Idahoans in decisions, opportunities and responsibilities related to wildlife. We heard that this collaboration should involve not just hunter and angler groups and other conservation organizations, but schools, local and county governments, and state and federal agencies.

This was the Idaho Café conversation. Participants listened to each other. We listened too, and we will work with all those who care about wildlife to continue the conversation, and to take the next steps toward achieving the objectives important to the wildlife legacy Idahoans want.

